

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /163 W

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R 141539Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2880

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SS SP PBOR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: FIRST ROUND OF MADRID TALKS ENDS
ON POSITIVE NOTE

1. PRIMIN OSMAN AND FONMIN LARAKI RETURNED TO RABAT
AUG 14, AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN MADRID ON SPANISH SAHARA.
JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING TALKS AND PRESS PLAY
HERE BOTH IMPART POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC TONE.

2. COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED THAT TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN
"CLIMATE OF CORDIALITY" CORRESPONDING TO CLOSE TIES OF GEOGRAPHY
AND COMMON HISTORY. TALKS DESCRIBED AS "USEFUL", SIDES
HAVING PRESENTED THEIR POSITIONS IN "A SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS"
BENEFITING TRADITIONAL INTIMATE RELATIONS.

3. LOCAL COVERAGE NOTED THAT MOROCCANS WERE RECEIVED
AS INITIAL COURTESY BY PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, FOLLOWED BY
SEVEN-HOUR WORKING SESSION AUG 13 WITH THEIR SPANISH
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COUNTERPARTS. SPANISH SOURCE QUOTED AFTER SESSION AS

SAYING THAT DETAILED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK PLACE, ONE COULD "ABSOLUTELY NOT SPEAK OF DISACCORD", AND DECISION TAKEN TO PURSUE THE DIALOGUE. MOROCCAN DELEGATION REPORTEDLY UNDERLINED CORDIALITY OF RECEPTION BY SPANISH OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS FRANKNESS AND CALM MARKING FIRST SESSION. "RELATIVE OPTIMISM" EXPRESSED RE CONCLUSION OF TALKS. PRIMIN OSMAN THEN HOSTED DINNER FOR SPANISH SIDE EVENING OF AUG 13. BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR HOME AUG 14, MOROCCANS INSCRIBED IN PROTOCOL BOOK IN PRADO PALACE A MESSAGE OF "GREETINGS, CONSIDERATION AND WISHES FOR PROMPT RECOVERY" FOR FRANCO.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO PUBLIC INDICATION OF SUBSTANTIVE MOVEMENT IN TALKS THUS FAR, FRIENDLY COMMUNIQUE AND UPBEAT SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS COVERAGE SEEM TO SET STAGE FOR IMPROVED SPANISH-MOROCCAN ATMOSPHERE AS RESULT OF OSMAN AND LARAKI VISIT TO MADRID. GOM NO DOUBT ESPECIALLY PLEASED AT BOOST PROVIDED BY MADRID TALKS FOR ITS CONTENTION THAT MOROCCO AND SPAIN ARE SOLE "INTERESTED PARTIES" TO SAHARA DISPUTE.
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